



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING | AGRICULTURE

[suffolkcountyny.gov/Business/AgriculturalandFishing.aspx](http://suffolkcountyny.gov/Business/AgriculturalandFishing.aspx)



## Rich Agricultural Heritage

### THE BACKBONE OF THE LONG ISLAND WAY OF LIFE

Suffolk County's rich agricultural heritage serves as the backbone of the Long Island way-of-life and helps sustain our county's economic growth. Not only do our farms, farmstands and vineyards generate the tourism dollars that support our local restaurants and service industries, they also provide the fresh produce that feeds people locally...and around the globe.

The first Long Island Vineyard was planted in 1973. Now boasting more than 60 vineyards and wineries, Long Island "Wine Country" is recognized as one of the most exciting wine producing regions in the country and a premier destination for wine tasting. Many wineries offer tours of their facilities, special events hosting, food pairings with your tastings, and live entertainment. The 60 vineyards in Long Island Wine Country produce 500,000 cases of wine a year, worth approximately \$100 million, and draw 1.3 million visitors who generate an additional \$90 to \$120 million in tourism revenues. Agriculture in general supports the \$2.9 billion Suffolk County tourism industry which directly employs more than 27,000 people.



## Did You Know?

### SUFFOLK COUNTY...

- 1 The # 3 county in New York in agricultural production - \$240 million in annual sales Boasts 604 farms averaging 60 acres each
- 2 Ranks # 1 in New York State in greenhouse, sod, cantaloupe, cauliflower, and pumpkin production
- 3 Ranked number one in the State in the market value of aquaculture products sold in 2012 - \$9.3 million which represented 51.5% of the NY State total
- 4 Reaped \$6,666 in agricultural sales per each acre of farmland - almost nine times the NY State average of \$754
- 5 Sows 36,000 acres of farmland, nearly 20,000 of which are permanently preserved
- 6 Ranked # 1 in the State with 1.9 million ducks sold and is 5th in the production of ducks nationwide

Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive  
Theresa Ward, Commissioner of Economic Development & Planning

H. Lee Dennison Building • 100 Veterans Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788



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## FARM STANDS

Local Farmstands serve every pocket of Suffolk County. The Long Island Farm Bureau and The Peconic Land Trust maintain lists of the more than 100 local Suffolk County farmstands. The Long Island Convention & Visitor's Bureau hosts its own epicurean oriented website which lists farmstands, farmers' markets, agricultural tourism options, vineyards, microbreweries, etc. Please contact these organizations to find a local farmstand or to have your farmstand listed.

## AGRITOURISM

Any activity that draws visitors to a farm operation is a rapidly growing industry in Suffolk County. According to the latest census, Suffolk County agritourism sales increased 432% in the last five years.

## GATEWAY TO VALUABLE INFORMATION

Consider the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning your gateway to valuable information, programs and funding that can help your business succeed. If you own a farm or farm-related business, or you are an aspiring farmer, there are many government programs and non-profit organizations dedicated to preserving agriculture and its rich contribution to the high quality of life we enjoy on Long Island.

## FARMLAND PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Suffolk County's Farmland Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program began in 1974 and is the oldest PDR program in the nation. This valuable program has protected over 10,500 acres of Suffolk farmland and ensures that rich soils and farmland will be preserved permanently for farming use. Suffolk farmers benefit from PDR funding and Estate Planning strategies that increase the likelihood that farms remain in agricultural use for future generations.

## AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS PROGRAM

Suffolk Agricultural Districts Program can help enrolled land owners with regulatory burdens and to receive property tax assessments based on the value of the land for agricultural production rather than its development value. This can save farmers a substantial amount of money and help ensure that farming in Suffolk County remains a viable and economically sustainable occupation despite developmental pressures.

## CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE) works directly with farmers who rely on their research, guidance, and assistance to protect the environment and promote the economic health of our vital agriculture industry. CCE partners with government, Cornell University, and various non-profits and community groups to help.

## FARMERS FOR THE FUTURE

Farmers For The Future: Agricultural Capital Equipment Grant Program from The Peconic Land Trust encourages eligible farmers to seek reimbursement for 20%, up to \$25,000, of the purchase cost of capital equipment and infrastructure. All agricultural equipment and infrastructure will be considered for reimbursement – **including but not limited to** – greenhouses, barns, tractors, storage facilities, etc.

## SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service partnership advances on-farm conservation planning for the protection and enhancement of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources. Farmers who consult with the District on conservation plans and best practices can receive access to USDA-NRCS funding to apply these practices and to purchase equipment.

## STONY BROOK BUSINESS INCUBATOR

The Stony Brook University Business Incubator at Calverton is focused on incubating local food and technology start-ups and currently houses 75 food companies in their 25,000 square foot facility.

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### *For more information:*

August Ruckdeschel • Agriculture & Fishing

Office: (631) 853-4714

Email: [august.ruckdeschel@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:august.ruckdeschel@suffolkcountyny.gov)

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